

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, April 12, 2011  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

May 10, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Amanda Figolah, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Toby Strout, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz. Advisory member Michael Beczkiewicz was also present.

Regrets: Dave Rollo, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark,

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

**Approval of the minutes:** The minutes from the March 2011 meeting were approved.

**Public comment:** None

**Announcements:**

Andy Davis has stepped down from BCOS and will be moving to S. Korea. If anyone has other possible members who might be interested, please send them to the Clerk's webpage to apply for consideration, and also share names with the Chair.

Toby suggested that we do a gap analysis to determine what areas are underrepresented. We have a number of members who are interested in food already, so other areas of interest might be appropriate.

The Community Orchard Planting Day was cancelled last week due to weather, and has been rescheduled to Saturday 4/16.

Bill Nesper from the League of American Bicyclists will be visiting Bloomington on Thursday, 4/14. There will be a press conference at 1:30 on the B-line and a public talk at 7pm.

The Farmers Market Coalition is planning a national food day in October. Cynthia will share information on this.

There will be a rainbarrel and compost bin sale on April 30; the BCOS water committee will also do a rainbarrel workshop on the same day from 2-4pm at Harmony School.

SIREN will do a presentation on solar options on Wednesday, May 18. The location is TBD.

Hoosier to Hoosier will have multiple volunteer days from May 2-6 and May 9-10 if anyone is available to volunteer.

### **Report from the Chair**

Maggie asked to postpone the report on member areas of interest until next month to allow her to meet with all members.

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

Jacqui gave an overview of the bike infrastructure initiative (allocating ~\$2m to bike and ped projects) and the new downtown recycling drop off center announced by the mayor.

She also discussed the Task of the Month home energy efficiency initiative started by Earth Care, and efforts to start using the toolkit in neighborhoods and other groups.

### **Committee Reports:**

*STAR:* some discussion ensued after the announcement of the 4 targets at the last meeting, and the committee decided to revisit the last target. The goals announced last month:

- \*lower city govt energy consumption by 15%
- \*reduce city-wide building energy usage by 10%
- \*retrofit about 5% of housing stock—365 homes/year
- ~~\*increase renewable energy generation and purchasing to 5%~~

The committee agreed to modify the last to an increase of 20% of current renewable energy generation. Good data doesn't exist to establish a baseline, but the committee is working on gathering info from local installers, SIREN, and others.

The committee is also looking at transitioning to a web-based report to allow for easy updates. The committee will start looking at transportation and other topics, and examining possible targets for those categories.

Bill indicated that IU will be adding 46 kilowatts of renewable power generation this year, so that may mean we will get pretty close to the last target just based on their contribution.

The goals were approved unanimously. Ted will revise the press release and send it to the chairs.

*Energy:* Discussions have been taking place around the possibility of installing solar PV on City Hall. We will keep the commission posted on these efforts.

*Water:* The committee will host a rainbarrel workshop on April 30 as discussed above.

*Food:* the committee met to discuss a starter garden program to get more people to grow vegetables, and to discuss what gardens are already in existence. They met with Stephanie Sullivan at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard to brainstorm ideas. They also suggested choosing a Saturday in May to have an "opening of the gardening season" at the farmers market—they have discussed this idea with Marcia Veldman as a possibility of next year.

Jacqui also shared a report from a student class last fall that the committee reviewed—the report found that people decide to garden based on being exposed to gardening through neighbors, family, or friends. This may be a basis for a program in the future.

Dave P. also talked to James Farmer, who conducted a survey last fall on gardening and community-supported agriculture.

*ECPC:* Since Andy is departing, Maggie will talk to Heidi about stepping up from the alternate position to serve as BCOS's primary representative

*Communications:* The GNN website is continuing to develop. The person who has been doing many of the updates is leaving, and he suggested that we look for another student who can work on the website as a resume-builder.

**New Business:**

*Bike Summit:* BCOS was approached with a request for funding to support the Platinum Bike Task Force Bike Summit. Amy suggested that we might tie our support to providing local food at the reception.

The commission agreed unanimously to donate \$100 with the contingency that the caterer provide local food as part of the menu.

*Food survey:* A second request came from the Food Committee to support a gardening survey as part of the efforts of the Assessment Committee of the Food Policy Council. They want to figure out where food gardens are already established. A computer survey could be sent through the Master Gardener Program, the Local Growers Guild, the Community Orchard, other groups.

A suggestion was made to involve the Extension Service in the effort, as well as working with someone with expertise in surveys to make sure the survey is effective.

The commission agreed to donate up to \$100 to cover printing and postage where needed.

*Waste at South High School:* Andy Davis toured South High School with Amanda and the head custodian there to evaluate the generation of waste in the cafeteria. The visit raised many questions, and revealed the complexity of trying to address the problem. Taking on the project would be a huge undertaking—1000 styrofoam trays are generated per day. Maggie and Amy both indicated an interest in following up.

*Cool roofs:* Dave P. reported on a speaker at SPEA recently on the fact that urban areas are heating up much faster than other areas, often with catastrophic results. The speaker recommended both planting trees and installing white/cool roofs. Austin TX has an ordinance requiring cool roofs, and Dave suggested that the commission explore working with the council to require this for new buildings. He will work on more details for a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.